



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

RENEE CIPRIANO, DIRECTOR

January 15, 2004

Mr. Tom Skinner, Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



265565

Re: 0430305282—DuPage County
Ellsworth Industrial Park/Downers Grove
Superfund/Technical

Dear Regional Administrator Skinner:

As you are aware, since summer 2001, Illinois EPA has been working on groundwater contamination that affects nearly 900 homes and private wells in and near Downers Grove, Illinois. It is a complicated contamination issue involving multiple potentially responsible parties (PRPs) and all levels of government. Region 5 staff participated in the Governor's Action Team formed early in 2001 to facilitate discussions on a public water supply solution and assumed the enforcement lead for this case in the fall of that year.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding job that Tom Krueger, U.S. EPA Regional Counsel, has done on the first phase of this project. Tom's leadership, negotiation skills and diplomacy have been invaluable to both Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA in securing agreements among the environmental agencies, the PRPs, DuPage County, Downers Grove and the affected citizens. My staff has informed me that throughout the complicated negotiations, Tom has shown much patience and understanding to all those involved. He has also shown sensitivity to residents' concerns over potential health impacts from exposure to chemical contamination. He has been responsive to residents' questions and concerns throughout the process.

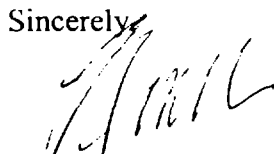
Through Tom's efforts, along with the rest of U.S. EPA's and Illinois EPA's project teams' efforts, we have secured the funding mechanism for public water supply connections for the affected families. The water connections, funded in the most part by the PRPs, are now in the process of being installed under the supervision of DuPage County. This marks a critical accomplishment by eliminating residents' exposure to the groundwater contamination.

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During the last two years, Tom has worked to keep all members of the agencies' teams fully informed of the issues during negotiations. Consequently, all members have been able to effectively contribute their specific knowledge to achieving sound solutions for a sensitive, technically complex and politically-involved situation. I'm sure you'll agree that consistent and open communication among the environmental agencies is critical on joint sites such as this one.

I commend his diligence and follow through with all parties, including Illinois EPA, federal, state and local officials and private citizens. Because Tom is good at his job, he makes our jobs that much easier, and we are pleased to be represented by him as a negotiator and team leader. We look forward to working in partnership with U.S. EPA on the remaining investigation and source remediation phases of this project.

Sincerely,


Renee Cipriano, Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

*Thanks for all
your help on this
one!*